

Conservation Advisory Council | City of Newburgh, New York

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Council Members:

Richard Harper, Chairman

Kippy Boyle

Deborah Dresser

Gail Fulton

Karen McCarthy

Phil Prinzivalli

Chuck Thomas



Conservation Advisory Council

Minutes of Meeting

April 7, 2016 – 6:30pm

1. Roll Call

Present: Richard Harper, Kippy Boyle, Phil Prinzivalli,
Karen McCarthy, Deborah Dresser, Eliana Diaz (Secretary)

Excused: Chuck Thomas, Gail Fulton

Guest: Michael Starrace, 2 Nicoll Street
Edward Carey, Energy & Renewable Commodities, Good Energy
Javier Barrios, Managing Partner, Good Energy LP
Marcel Barrick, Manager Downing Park Greenhouse Project

2. Approval of minutes from March 3, 2016

Due to the delay in distribution of the minutes of the March 3rd meeting, any comments and corrections can be emailed for approval.

3. Budget Report/Invoices:

Kippy has a ledger for \$13.58 to be reimbursed.

4. Site Plan Reviews:

a. 2 Nicoll Street

The property is located within the LWRP, Mr. Starrace has submitted the property plans to the Building Department and has appeared before the Zoning Board. When reviewing the Site Plans submitted it was pointed out that some grading may be needed. In addition the depression shown on the property was addressed, it was stated that it is not filled because that is where the gas and plumbing will be put in place. The Revitalization Plan will be reviewed, a CAF will be filled out and a comment memo will be written. Detrimental impacts were not foreseen on the waterfront, it was recommended to utilize permeable materials when paving the driveway.

5. Presentation:

Community Choice Aggregation

Edward Carey and Javier Barrios from Good Energy LP gave a presentation on Community Choice Aggregation. Good Energy is about a 100 person firm which does a lot of energy management for

hotels, real estate and municipalities. New York State is the seventh state to adopt Community Choice Aggregation. C.C.A seeks to provide lower rates on energy, the vast majority of the State of Illinois has benefited from C.C.A. and Westchester County is also testing this program. This program seeks to promote a green aspect and there really is no impact on the community as far as construction. This program can provide users savings of \$100 or \$150 per customer. The program builds more green energy from what is available, they do forward contracts because of the changes in weather, and municipalities can obtain fixed rates. There was a question regarding solar panels on house roofs, it was stated that such solar panels were for personal benefits and therefore would not fit into what the program is about. This program is 100% utility driven, the billing will continued to be managed by the utility provider. Individual residents can opt out without penalties at any time and there is a 12 month trial period to compare prices.

6. Old Business

Chad requested an update on any additional volunteer hours since last April. The numbers from this year were lower since last year's hours were a compilation of two years. There may need to be more detailed information on the update Kippy sent to Chad.

a) Newburgh Waterfront Updates:

i. Newburgh Landing

There are no updates on this topic.

ii. South Street Park

There are no updates on this topic.

iii. Fishing Pier

There are no updates on this topic.

b) Tree Inventory Grant Closeout

Kippy has mailed all of the necessary materials to the DEC.

c) Revise By-Laws to include more members

The CAC will have a table at the Urban Farming Fair which will be on 4/27/16 from 12PM to 5PM. It was mentioned that an arborist is needed in the City in order to comply with the Code. Richard will write a memo to the City Manager and the City Council mentioning that the City no longer has a volunteer arborist due to health reasons. There was mention that the situation the City is undergoing due to the lack of an arborist needs to be brought to the attention of the constituents.

d) Sidewalk and Street Tree Pit Standards and Specifications

A meeting was held at City Hall with a representative from GPI, the design consultant has done the first draft of design plans for Liberty Street. These plans will be our minimum standards and recommended preferred options for sidewalks, sidewalk materials, pervious paving, tree pit standards etc. George Profus had a few questions for the Engineering Department on structural soil for the tree pits on the design plans, Kippy will follow up with him.

7. New Business

a) Newburgh Preservation Association Presentation, March 20,2016

A presentation was made about the inventory and lobbied during the presentation for a City arborist.

b) Urban Farming Fair, April 30, 2016

Kippy sent an email to the DPW department asking them to drop off chips of mulch at the Safe Harbors Park for people to get during the Urban Farming Fair.

c) CAC Position/Action regarding latest DPW Tree Trimming

Richard is to draft a letter, pictures if available are to be attached. Kippy has sent an email to the DPW Department regarding the Emerald Ash Borer on Washington Street Trees.

d) Easement on Snake Hill

Kippy and Richard addressed concerns with Michelle Kelson from Corporation Counsel regarding the easement on Snake Hill. They had concerns that the easement was too wide open and not specific enough. An amended easement is to be presented at the council work session, if it makes it to the agenda on Monday the CAC will be able to make comments on the Council meeting.

8. Subcommittee Reports

a) LWRP Update

Richard received an email from Deirdre with an attached proposal from BFJ consultants who had done the LWRP update. Deirdre wanted Richard to review the proposal and make sure nothing had been missed in the scope of work.

b) Parks

London Plain trees will be planted along Dubois Street for Arbor Day on 4/29

c) Open Space/NRI

Richard needs to get in touch with Laurence since he was put in charge of the in house NRI work.

d) Watershed

There are no updates on this topic.

e) Air Quality

There are no updates on this topic.

f) Urban Forestry

- **Site Visits March**

Phil went by Robinson Avenue between Gidney & South Street where trees were run over

- **TD Bank Grant Application – status report Re: Utility Vehicle, Press Release, etc.**

The Heights in the City of Newburgh is undergoing Phase I of a long term project from Bay View to Overlook, Courtney & Henry and coming back up Liberty Street which will take about two months to complete. Deborah was told that trees could be planted at any time during the Phase I process. There was a discussion whether the trees should be planted in the spring or take the project and plant the trees in the fall when the work is finished. Kippy will try to set up a meeting with George Garrison from DPW regarding the trees on Liberty Street.

- **Arbor Day Plans – location of plantings and date, press release**

9. Ongoing Environmental Concerns

a. Consolidated Iron Site

There are tentative dates for the use of the site: April 15th and April 23rd

b. Ferry docking site after June lease expiration

There are no updates on this topic.

c. Broadway Demonstration Project

There are no updates on this topic.

d. Pilgrim Pipeline

There is a new proposal stating that the pipeline will go through New Windsor. The CAC will have comments for a scoping session on the EAF (SEQRA)

e. Quassaick Creek

There are no updates on this topic.

10. Calendar of Upcoming Events

- April 15, 2016, Rally for Bernie Sanders, Consolidated Iron Site
- April 30, 2016, 12 – 5 PM, 54 Liberty St., free admission - Urban Farming Fair

11. 2015/2016 Volunteer Hours

Any volunteer hours must be reported to Kippy.

General Discussion

The vehicle which was originally selected was not approved by the Police Department. The vehicle chosen can be in the range of \$5600, there needs to be further research conducted, now that the plantings will be in the fall there is more time to do research on the vehicle.

Motion to Adjourn: **Kippy Boyle**

Motion Seconded: **Phil Prinzivalli**

Vote: **Unanimously Approved**

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00p.m.

Project Reviews by CAC in 2016

198 South Robinson Ave. Special Use Permit comments to PB	
39A-B Johnston Street- Site Plan Rural Ulster Preservation Company (RUPCO)	

Project Reviews by CAC in 2015

First St. Fishing Pier; Comments to Engineering 6/8/15	Habitat Newburgh- Ann St. at Johnston, four units; CAC ltr 9/04/15
Safe Harbors Park- Broadway at Liberty; comments to PB 8/12/15	Habitat Newburgh – 123 Washington Street – street trees
T/Newburgh Matrix Development in City Watershed- 17K/I-87; CAC Ltr 8/20/15	

Project Reviews by CAC in 2014

Shell Gas Station (405 Bway)	Independent living
Rt 300- Crystal Run	Re-Zoning/ LWRP Update
Water Tower Replacement	Newburgh Landing/ South St./ Fishing Pier
Torches	Tyrone Crabb Park Planting List
#5 Scobie Drive	North Montgomery St.

